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Title: Need to provide minimum support price to copra and arecanut.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): Madam, I `would like to raise a very important issue here.

The coconut and areca nut growers are facing a severe problem in the country in general, and in Karnataka in particular. Due to steep fall in copra and areca nut prices, they are put to great hardship. The price of copra per quintal has come down to Rs. 7,000, which was at Rs. 18,000 in the market. Similarly, the price of areca nut has come down to Rs. 18,000 from Rs. 80,000. We have been requesting the Government of India to come to the rescue of these farmers and avoid the farmers from committing suicide for not being able to repay the loans which they have borrowed for these purposes.

Madam, the prevailing market value of copra and areca nut is not sufficient to sustain the cost of production. That is why, I urge upon the Government of India to increase the price of copra per quintal to a minimum of Rs. 15,000, and also to increase the price of areca nut to a minimum of Rs. 30,000 per quintal, and thus come to the rescue of farmers of this country in general, and the Karnataka farmers in particular.

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri R. Dhruvanarayana,

Shri D.K. Suresh are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri S.P. Muddahanume Gowda.